



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

LOWELL MAN CONVICTED OF FEDERAL WEAPONS CHARGES

United States v. Sheldon GRANT

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and Nashua Police Chief Donald Gross announced that Sheldon GRANT, DOB 1/15/82, of Lowell, Massachusetts was convicted on January 29, 2004 of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

GRANT, a convicted felon, entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Paul J. Barbadoro to an information charging him with being a felon in possession of a firearm in Nashua on June 27, 2003. GRANT was detained without bail by Judge Barbadoro pending his sentencing hearing to be held in U.S. District Court in Concord on May 3, 2004. He faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years.

GRANT was previously convicted in Massachusetts of marijuana distribution and breaking and entering.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "This case exemplifies this Office's commitment to aggressive prosecution of the federal firearms laws as mandated by Attorney General Ashcroft's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" initiative. Keeping firearms out of the hands of convicted felons is one of our main objectives. This office will continue to vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we expand the implementation of Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire."

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal program to reduce gun violence in New Hampshire by aggressive investigation and prosecution of firearm offenders, education of the public and training of law enforcement officers about firearms laws. Attorney General John Ashcroft recently called Project Safe Neighborhoods "a revolutionary campaign against gun crime in America."

The prosecution against GRANT resulted from an investigation conducted by the Nashua Police Department. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante.